

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Original) A cardiomyopathy therapeutic agent that contains hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) and gelatin hydrogel, and gradually releases HGF.
2. (Original) A cardiomyopathy therapeutic agent according to claim 1 wherein the gelatin has the following physical properties:
  - (1) an acidic gelatin obtained from collagen by alkaline hydrolysis treatment;
  - (2) molecular weight under non-reducing conditions of SDS-PAGE of about 100,000 to about 200,000 daltons; and;
  - (3) zeta potential in aqueous solution of about -15 to about -020 mV.
3. (Currently Amended) A cardiomyopathy therapeutic agent according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2 wherein cardiomyopathy is dilation cardiomyopathy.
4. (Currently Amended) A cardiomyopathy therapeutic agent according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2 wherein the cardiomyopathy is hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.
5. (Currently Amended) A cardiomyopathy therapeutic agent according to claim 3 ~~or~~ 4 wherein the cardiomyopathy is idiopathic cardiomyopathy, primary cardiomyopathy or secondary cardiomyopathy.
6. (New) A cardiomyopathy therapeutic agent according to claim 2 wherein cardiomyopathy is dilation cardiomyopathy.

7. (New) A cardiomyopathy therapeutic agent according to claim 2 wherein the cardiomyopathy is hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

8. (New) A cardiomyopathy therapeutic agent according to claim 6 wherein the cardiomyopathy is idiopathic cardiomyopathy, primary cardiomyopathy or secondary cardiomyopathy.

9. (New) A cardiomyopathy therapeutic agent according to claim 4 wherein the cardiomyopathy is idiopathic cardiomyopathy, primary cardiomyopathy or secondary cardiomyopathy.

10. (New) A cardiomyopathy therapeutic agent according to claim 7 wherein the cardiomyopathy is idiopathic cardiomyopathy, primary cardiomyopathy or secondary cardiomyopathy.